



KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER: KEY COMPOSER 1

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN

1770 - 1827



- Beethoven was born in Germany. He was a German.
- Beethoven would be 250 years old!
- Beethoven was a perfectionist. He wrote lots of music but threw lots of it away. He always wanted everything to be just right. He became frustrated easily.
- Beethoven had many temper tantrums.
- Beethoven wrote 9 symphonies. His 10th symphony was unfinished—he died before he got to complete it.
- Beethoven went completely deaf. He didn't hear some of the music he wrote or the applause it got when it was performed.

250 Years Ago...

- *James Cook, an explorer, discovered Australia and named it New South Wales
- *England was at war with France. Napoleon was the Emperor of France
- *Convicts were sent to Australia as a punishment
- *George III was the King of England—people say he went mad!
- *The police force was first established in England
- *Lord Nelson dies at the Battle of Trafalgar. He was the Admiral on board HMS Victory. This ship is now docked at Portsmouth Harbour

Symphony	A piece of music for full orchestra usually in 4 or 5 movements
Programme Music	Music that has a story. The composer uses music to tell a story or describe a scene. Often, programme notes are provided or a title helps the listener understand the music better. In Symphony No.6, Beethoven uses flutes to describe the birds.
Theme	A musical phrase that is repeated. This is a repetitive tune and/or rhythm.
Movement	Music for an orchestra can be divided into sections like chapters in a book. In a symphony, each movement is different in style. There are slow and faster movements.

BEETHOVEN'S SIGNIFICANT WORKS

SYMPHONY NUMBER 5

- *Nicknamed the Victory Symphony
- *The 'dot dot dot dash' theme in the first movement is probably the most well-known theme ever written
- *V is the Roman Numeral for the number 5
- *'dot dot dot dash' is Morse code for the letter V—Is this a coincidence? Morse code was created 30 years after this symphony was written
- *V is for Victory—made famous during World War 2 by the Prime Minister, Winston Churchill

SYMPHONY NUMBER 6

- *Nicknamed the Pastoral Symphony
 - *One of the first good examples of Programme Music
 - *Inspired by Beethoven's love of nature
 - *This symphony describes the countryside
 - *This symphony is in 5 movements and each movement has a title.
- 1.Scene in the countryside 2. Scene by the brook 3.A wedding 4.A thunderstorm 5.Calm after the storm

FUR ELISE

- *Probably the best known piano solo ever written
- *Discovered 40 years after Beethoven's death
- *Fur Elise translates into English as 'For Elizabeth' but who was Elizabeth? Nobody really knows!